

Trails Committee Minutes
June 28, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Kinowski; Supervisors Wright, and Richardson; Devin Dalpos, Saratoga Springs; Larry Gordon, Wilton; Jason Kemper, Planning; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

Chairman Kinowski called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the March 27, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Update on County Forestry Program

Mr. Kemper said the first timber harvest in the Town of Moreau was completed last week. He said he expected the land to be cleared of the timber in the next couple of weeks and then the trails will be mapped, and equine trails will be discussed. When complete there will be over 300 acres of contiguous forest land to put trails on, he said.

Update on Spruce Mountain

Mr. Kemper said the APA permit for Spruce Mountain has been received, as well as subdivision approval from the Town of Corinth.

Update on the Zim Smith Trail extension to Mechanicville and National Trail Recognition

Mr. Kinowski thanked the Department of Public Works for maintaining the trails and Saratoga PLAN for all the work they did including the GPS and the overlay to Google mapping that was applied. He thanked Mr. Kemper for his work in initiating it into the system, so the county could receive national recognition for the Zim Smith Trail.

Mr. Kinowski said the land transfers have not been 100% completed as yet between CP Rail and Norfolk Southern. As far as the five years that the county has to make this trail happen, we have more time, he said. He said he has approached Norfolk Southern and CP Rail to discuss if we do the greater majority of the trail and acquiring necessary property's, is that significant enough to award the parcels that we are looking for. Mr. Kemper is working with the schools and other parcels of property toward the eastern end closest to Mechanicville which is approximately 60% of the trail. At the northern end of the trail near Coons Crossing there is a property owner that is willing to sell their property, which represents an additional 15% of the trail, he said.

Mr. Kinowski said the power company was originally going to grub and do much of the trail work from Coons Crossing and that has changed. They have decided to go a different route which will be across a much lesser part of the trail, so a new way will have to be found to clear

and grub that part of the trail. Mr. Kemper said the money has already been approved to utilize as the committee sees fit, and to obtain letters of support to do any transfers, easements or purchases. He said the resubmittal of the grant proposal that was submitted last year is moving forward for a CFA grant. Mr. Kinowski said he has potential opportunity for an exchange of in kind services working with NYSEG and National Grid with some land that they are looking for in the town of Stillwater to expand their facilities to bring more power to Global Foundries.

Update on Proposal for the County Trail addition (City of Mechanicville/Waterford)

Mr. Kemper said this is a section of land behind the old GE Silicones Facility located in Waterford, near the City of Mechanicville. The land is owned by Mechanicville, but lies within Waterford, he said. There is money through Lakes to Locks where they received some federal funding to help design a portion of the Champlain Canalway Trail. Lakes-to-Locks is moving forward with an RFP to go out this fall to design the trail. Mr. Kemper said he would be working to try and place an easement over that trail in the hands of the county to help facilitate funding. He said if the county was to acquire an easement it would hold the county harmless for anything that is underneath the land to help strengthen the application and facilitate grant money. Mr. Richardson said the City of Mechanicville disclosed that the land was part of a dump at one time and that they would do what was necessary to get the trail through to Mechanicville. Mr. Kemper said it is his goal to get the trail paid for and built as grant funds become available.

Mr. Kinowski said last year a CFA was submitted for a very large grant for the Zim Smith Trail. This year we are going to resubmit, but under the concept of doing it in phases. He said this would be a better way to go because with part of the grant submittal you need letters of support and acknowledgement that you plan on acquiring and the other person is willing to allow you to acquire either easements or ownership of the properties involved.

Mr. Kinowski said Mr. Kemper, Mr. Veitch and he attended the Saratoga PLAN Trail Committee meeting, which is a very comprehensive meeting with all groups that would have anything to do with trails within New York State, including the power companies, different townships, representatives, equine industry, etc.

The meeting included outlining a number of Saratoga PLAN initiatives that include the following:

- Geyser Road with DOT progress on the pedestrian crossing between RR Run and the Spa Park
- Study of the intersection of Geyser Road, Ave of The Pines, and Route 50 – this is being done by other parties
- The Round Lake Bypass and Luther Forest
- Power line corridors
- Vischer Ferry Trail connection

- Champlain Canalway Trail

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom